

## HAS RUGER SOLD HIMSELF?

Startling Rumor Current at  
Fortress Monroe.

## A SERGEANT DISAPPEARS

Is an Expert Ordnance Soldier and  
Familiar With the Defenses of the  
Fort and Harbor—The Charge  
Openly Made That Spanish Gold  
Has Bought Him.

Mr. F. W. Human, of New Haven, Conn., who has just returned from Old Point Comfort, brings to this city a startling tale which confirms the dispatch from Newport News printed in the Times yesterday morning about the disappearance of a soldier at Fortress Monroe.

Walter Ruger, alias Tscherning, a sergeant in the ordnance corps of the Army, stationed at the above named fort, disappeared five days ago. He had been in the service eight years and by his military training, received in the German army, and his remarkable knowledge of all matters pertaining to the Ordnance Department, rose to the rank of sergeant and to be head draughtsman at his station.

He was thoroughly familiar with the entire plan of the fortifications, knew the location of every mine laid in the waters near the fort, and knew every piece of ordnance in use in America. Contrary to the reports sent out last night, he never was known to drink intoxicants to excess. He was always at his post of duty, and in every way a model soldier.

In fact, the officers came to regard him as a man to be trusted with any and all secrets which they themselves had, and no one suspected that he was not worthy of the confidence reposed in him.

He was well educated, spoke English and German equally well, was well up in French, and spoke Spanish like a native. The latter accomplishment was remembered as soon as it was found that he had gone.

At first the officers were inclined to think that he had merely gone off on his own, but when three days had elapsed without his return, the officers began to believe that he had been taken by some Spanish spy.

The story spread out, and all Newport News, Norfolk and Hampton became excited over the matter. The enlisted men at the fort confirmed the rumors about the desertion, and many an anxious resident of that vicinity began to look around for some trace of him.

Nowhere, however, could any clue to his whereabouts be found. The War Department was notified immediately, and an earnest but fruitless official search for the missing man was begun.

Dock Superintendent Williams told Mr. Human yesterday that the officers were certain that the man had sold himself to Spain, and that he would never be caught. The greatest anxiety now exists at Fortress Monroe, and in the immediate neighborhood. It is thought that a complete change of the submarine mines will be ordered, and that the fortifications themselves will have to be altered.

Ruger is a naturalized citizen of this country.

## THE SPANISH ELECTIONS.

The Liberals Successful by a Large Majority.

Madrid, March 27.—The parliamentary elections that were held today have gone by a large majority in favor of the Liberals, the party now in power. Very little interest was manifested in Madrid, and the polling booths were almost deserted. Most all the candidates elected here are Liberals.

Boats are reported from many places, the troubles being fomented by socialists. This was especially the case in the provinces of Biscay, Navarre, Catalonia, and Valencia. At Durango, in the province of Biscay, one man was killed. At Bilbao, in the same province, there was quite a serious riot, the socialists bitterly opposing the candidature of Senor Rivas, a millionaire.

The leader of the socialists was arrested. His followers attacked the gendarmes and a riot ensued. The gendarmes were re-enforced and then succeeded in restoring order. There is, however, much excitement in the city.

At Barcelona several arrests were made of disturbers of the peace.

It is estimated tonight that the government has won 200 of the 422 seats in the Chamber of Deputies.

It is reported that the Conservatives intend to propose that the troops in the interior of Cuba withdraw to the coast until the Autonomists and Separatists arrive at an agreement, but it is not expected that the chamber will entertain the proposal.

It is believed that Senor Polo y Bertrane, the Spanish minister at Washington, will hand the Spanish report on the Maine disaster to President McKinley Tuesday. The government does not despair of staying the President's action for a while.

## Sentenced to Jail.

Representative McMillin of Tennessee was a witness today in the Police Court against John Walters, alias George Stewart, colored, bell boy at the Hotel Normandie. Mr. McMillin explained that he had reported to the police the theft from his room of a pair of pants and a waistcoat, which after the arrest of Walters he identified as his property. Detective Muller arrested Walters, who was identified by several clothing dealers to whom he had sold goods. Judge Scott sentenced the accused to ninety days in jail.

## Fannie Davenport Better.

Chicago, March 28.—Fannie Davenport, who is confined to her bed at the Great Northern Hotel, with heart trouble, is reported as being much better this morning. Her physician no longer considers her condition critical.

## TRY GRAIN-O! TRY GRAIN-O!

Ask your Grocer today to show you a package of GRAIN-O! the new food drink that takes the place of coffee. It is the children's drink without injury as well as the adult. All who try it, like it. GRAIN-O! has that rich brown of Mocha de Java, but it is made from pure grains, and the most delicate stomach receives it without distress. One-quarter the price of coffee. 15c and 25c per package. Sold by all grocers. J&T-F



PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

## CONGRESSMAN SIMPKINS DEAD

The Result of Grip Followed by Peritonitis.

Representative John Simpkins, of Massachusetts, died suddenly at 10:30 o'clock last evening at his Washington residence, 147 K Street. He had been ill for a few days with grip; this illness was followed by an attack of inflammation of the bowels. Yesterday peritonitis developed, and at 10 o'clock last night he was seized with an attack of vomiting and suddenly expired.

Mr. Simpkins was thirty-five years old and a bachelor. He was a member of the Metropolitan Club, and in addition to his prominence among the younger members of the House, was especially identified with the social life of the capital. He was born in New Bedford, Mass., and was graduated from Harvard in 1885. He was a member of the Massachusetts senate in 1890 and 1891, and was a Presidential elector for Harrison in 1892. He was president of the Republican Club of Massachusetts in 1892-93-94. He was elected to the Fifty-fourth and re-elected to the Fifty-fifth Congress as a Republican, to represent the Thirteenth Massachusetts district. His home was in Yarmouth.

## THE AUDAZ DISABLED.

Two of Spain's Torpedo Boat Destroyers Encounter a Hurricane.

New York, March 28, 4 a. m.—A Waterford, Ireland, cablegram to the World says: "The torpedo boat destroyer Audaz, though crippled by a gale, is ordered to Spain with all possible haste."

"She put in here Friday with both bows smashed in, her stern twisted several feet out of line and other serious damage, sustained while trying to cross the Bay of Biscay on the way from her builders at Clyde Bank, Scotland, to Ferrol, Spain. Her collision bulkhead burst

see that the laws are enforced in regard to the closing of saloons on Sundays and at other times prescribed by law; also that all houses of ill-fame are abolished, and that girls and young women are kept off the streets after 9 o'clock at night. They are also to make war upon opium as well as they choose. When they get to the point of opening the market for associating with young men of bad habits. It is the aim of the society not only to reform the morals of the town, but also to stop to other abuses, such as bad sewerage, faulty pavements, and all other city work that has not been

done properly and according to contract. The very best ladies of the city are at the head of the organization, and they have a well-filled treasury from which to draw when funds are needed to prosecute their work. At the meeting yesterday all the reporters were excluded, and the sentinels at the door gave out that they did not need the aid of the press to help them in the work. Another lady members said:

"Binghamton is fast becoming a very wicked town, and our sons and daughters are being ruined. The saloons under the Balmes law are wide open on Sundays, and gambling and other vices are going on undisturbed. On the streets late at night can be seen young girls bargaining their shame, and the cafes are filled with young men and women drinking beer and listening to vile talk. It is our purpose to put a stop to this state of things, and if necessary, we will ask the authorities to supply a curfew bell, which will be rung at 9 o'clock every evening, except Saturday, and all young boys and girls will then have to get off the street or go to jail, unless they have a reasonable excuse. Other places have adopted this method with success, and we propose to try it. We shall use every effort to bring about a change in the morals of this city, and shall also give attention to other wrongs which are neglected by the authorities. The society will work in secret, and furnish evidence against lawbreakers."

Coroner Carr today gave a certificate of death from natural causes in the case of Willie Stephenson, colored, who died yesterday at the Emergency Hospital from pulmonary hemorrhage.

Frank Martin in Jail.

Frank Martin, colored, who brutally assaulted Sydney Warwick, brother of R. T. Warwick, the saloonkeeper, was sent to jail today to await the result of Warwick's injuries.

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## FLORA'S OPENING SEASON.

Open-Air Exhibition in the Streets of New York.

New York, March 28.—Lovers of flowers who visited the old Clinton produce market, at West and Canal Streets, today were surprised to find the old building in the hands of the florists. The New York Market Florists' Association has taken the building for a market. Hitherto the flower growers who have tried to sell their wares in the metropolis have been led a pillar-to-post existence. The city never allowed them "inside space" in the markets and they were relegated to the Union Square pavement in the early hours of the morning, and to the uninviting triangle at West and Canal Streets. No matter what the weather was, they had to brave it if they wished to dispose of their products.

Last Fall the chief growers on Long Island and New Jersey formed an association, one of the principal objects of which was to change the order of things and secure for the florists an indoor market. Finally things came their way. The invasion of the big stores into the neighborhood ended the career of Clinton market, and the city found itself without a tenant. It made overtures to the florists, who magnanimously agreed to overlook the treatment of the past, and to accept the good thing that the gods so tardily tendered them. The question of cost cut very little figure, for under the old order of things they had to pay each 25 cents rent for the space on the pavement, and besides pay a watchman's costs.

The promoters of the undertaking found very little opposition to the project. The officers of the association are: F. Letting, of Hackensack, president; A. C. Schiller, vice-president; A. C. Steinhoff, of West Hoboken, treasurer, and A. D. Rose and J. W. Withers, secretaries. The membership numbers sixty-one of the best-known cultivators of flowers on Long Island and in New Jersey.

Preparations for the first day in a real covered market began to take on an air of finality toward midnight last night. Wagons of flowers came in every few minutes from the river ferries, and great masses of flowers and flowers were sorted out and arranged tastefully for the first customers of the week. Ordinarily wagons with flowers come into New York every morning. Under the old regime space used to be so valuable at Union Square that many of them would arrive as early as midnight and hold

their places through the dreary hours of the night so as not to lose their chance at the morning market. They were compelled by the city to close up their displays by 8 a. m. at the Square and an hour later at the West Street triangle.

At the new market they can remain open as long as they choose. When they get to the point of opening the market this morning arrived there was a heavy array of florists' bills and asking which dwarfed the show of roses and geraniums. Forty-two stands are now ready for business, and the officers of the association say that a third more will soon be under the roof.

reached the required \$50,000 had been subscribed.

There was great rejoicing. The members cheered and sang, and continued to sing patriotic songs. The doors were thrown open, and there never was a more enthusiastic and a more pleasant occasion than that of the New York Athletic Club.

GOAT EATS CASH.

It Destroys One Thousand Dollars in Currency.

Drumville, Quebec, Mar. 28.—Telegraphing eight miles out of this town, has postponed his departure for the Kingdom entirely owing to the misdeeds of a male goat known in that neighborhood as "Bouhanger."

For several months Labergeaux has been smitten with the gold fever, and only recently, being a middle-aged widower, he negotiated the sale of his farm for \$10,000, in order to grubstake himself and his only son, Ouesime. The Labergeauxs are large, powerful men, devoid of fear for anything except savings banks and the parish priest. Accordingly they demanded payment in cash, and took the money home.

Arriving there, they placed ten \$100 bills on a table with a stove and a lamp. Just then the goat came trotting in and took the money right at two cats who had started to fight on the adjacent fence and ran away. Mr. Labergeaux gave the males, leaving the door open.

This was Boulanger's opportunity. From an ash heap, on which he had been browsing, he strove into the kitchen, and after upsetting the soup-pot and doing other sundry things, he proceeded to lunch leisurely on the proceeds of the sale.

"Sacre dieu!" "Nom du pape!" "Mille tonnerres!" "Gedam!" screamed the Labergeauxs.

Five minutes later Boulanger was dead and turned inside out, while father and son were exploring his vitals in search of the mislaid notes.

Having sifted them out as fast as possible, they drove back and placed the debris in the hands of a lawyer, who will make an effort to recover the value of the bills from the government.

The Labergeauxs will be allowed to keep their house for a month longer.

THE MASONIC FAIR.

Pentapha Lodge Will Use Electricity Lavishly.

An attraction at the Masonic fair and exposition will be the beautiful electric illumination of Pentapha Lodge, No. 23. The five-pointed star,

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